



February 2013 Interfaith Center of New York E-Announcements

Dear Friends,

Our “Debate in the Neighborhood” program resumes this year, bringing together high school-aged students from diverse New York City faith communities to learn the art of debate while examining mutual concerns of social justice and civil liberty. We are pleased to continue our work in Queens with The Hindu Temple Society of North America in Flushing, the Jamaica Muslim Center, and the Sikh Cultural Society and Gurdwara in Richmond Hill. And we are excited to expand the program into the Bronx, in partnership with the Islamic Leadership School, Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice, and Bronx Christian Fellowship Church. The focus of this year’s debate will be on “Privacy and Surveillance with New Technologies,” and we are already planning the final tournament on May 4, which will be open to the public.

With faith-based and interfaith groups around New York, ICNY continues to fight the anti-Muslim ads on the subways. Following a successful push for disclaimers and a set of counter-ads installed by United Methodist Women last September—religious leaders and civil rights activists continue to look for creative ways to respect free speech while condemning hatred. Now there is an opportunity for you to compose your own response ad through www.talkbacktohate.org. Started by Akiva Freidlin, a grandchild of Holocaust survivors, the project plan is to place ads in as many subway stations as donations will allow. Contributors can provide ideas on what the ads should say, and have the option to have their names printed on the ads. Please help spread the word about this initiative, and give voice to all New Yorkers who appreciate and protect the city’s diverse people. Also see these [New York Daily News](#) and [Queens Chronicle](#) articles for news stories illustrating ICNY’s continuing work in this area.

Below we list programs offered by The Interfaith Center of New York in February. We also list additional upcoming events that may be of interest to religious leaders in New York. A listing does not imply endorsement.

******* *Upcoming Interfaith Center Events* *******

Social Work and Religious Diversity – free course for social work students and practitioners

Dates: Feb. 8, 15, 22; March 1, 8

Time: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, with lunch served at noon

Location: UJA Federation of NY, 130 E. 59th Street, 7th Fl.

Explore faith-based perspectives on pressing social issues; Discuss the role of religion in the lives of individuals, families, and communities; Learn from local clergy, community leaders, leading service providers, and each other.

Dates and Topics for 2013:

February 8: Introduction to the Course: Faith-Based Perspectives on Social Work, Social Justice, and the Call to Service

February 15: Creating Safety and Sanctity for Women and Families: Faith-Based Perspectives on Domestic Violence

February 22: “Teach us to Number our Days”: Faith-Based Perspectives on Gerontology and End of Life Issues

March 1: Body and Spirit: Faith-Based Perspectives on Human Sexuality and LGBT Issues

March 8: The “Dark Night of the Soul” and Beyond: Faith-Based Perspectives on Depression and Mental Illness

For more information and registration, email socialwork@interfaithcenter.org.

Finding Free and Reliable Legal Assistance: Tips for Working with an Immigrant Population

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 27

Time: 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Location: Queens Supreme Civil Building, 5th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11435

The New York State Unified Court System and ICNY invite Queens religious and community leaders to a Roundtable Seminar featuring: Special Counsel for Housing Court Initiatives; NYS Court Access to Justice Volunteer Lawyer Program; NYLAG; Family Eviction Prevention Group. RSVP at (212) 870-3515 or to anushavan@interfaithcenter.org. Please provide your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address.

Reentry Circles of Support Lunch and Learn with Julio Medina

Date: Thursday, Feb. 28

Time: 12:30 pm

Location: Elmendorf Reformed Church, 171 E. 121st St., between Third and Lexington Avenues

Please join The Interfaith Center of New York and the Harlem Community Justice Center for a Lunch and Learn event. Our presenter will be Julio Medina, Executive Director of the Exodus Transitional Community will be our speaker/facilitator. Besides a lunch and a great speaker, the event is also an opportunity to network. The Lunch and Learn events are focused on issues of importance to the formerly incarcerated, their families, and faith volunteers and service providers

that work with them. The series is made possible through a generous grant from the J.C Flowers Foundation. You can RSVP to: 212-870-3513 or darren@interfaithcenter.org.

The Interfaith Center of New York is seeking out local restaurants and houses of worship willing to provide lunch (home-cooked or store bought is fine) for the next L&L. Contributors should be willing to provide lunch for about 30-40 people.

“Milestones of Faith” – a Twitter event in February in observance of Black History Month

In observance of Black History Month, The Interfaith Center of New York will recount many of the major “Milestones of Faith” in African American history. The indigenous faiths introduced into America through the slave trade mark just the beginning of an amazing history of African American pioneers in faith. Through indelible contributions of religious thought, music, art, and community-building, African Americans have played a leading role in shaping religious identity in the United States, across every faith tradition. Throughout the month of February, ICNY will issue “milestone missives” once a day (twice on weekend days) to its Twitter audience, moving in chronological order from the early arrivals of blacks in America to the latest developments in diverse faith traditions. To enjoy these “Milestones of Faith,” follow us on Twitter [@ICNY](https://twitter.com/ICNY). To access the entire body of messages, watch for the hashtag #BHMfaith (Black History Month Faith).

******* ICNY Co-Sponsored Events *******

Please complete a survey on your congregation’s/organization’s first 60 days of response to Super Storm Sandy – sponsored by The Interfaith Center of New York, New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS), and the National Disaster Interfaiths Network (NDIN).

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SandyOperations>

The response to Super Storm Sandy in New York City has clearly demonstrated that congregations, faith-based organizations and our non-profit service-provider partners form the backbone of disaster relief and recovery. It is critical for us to illuminate the vital role that our sector has played and will continue to play in NYC disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Early on, the unprecedented outpouring of goods and services from our communities has been crucial; our long-term recovery programs will be needed for years to come.

However, the scale of Sandy’s impact has made it challenging to locate and network effectively with all the resources available to affected families, congregations and other relief and recovery organizations. And so we seek to strengthen our impact by sharing solid information, leveraging our resources, and enhancing our partnerships.

Panel Discussion on the Occasion of World Interfaith Harmony Week: “The Role of Interfaith Dialogue in Peace Building and Women Empowerment”

Date: Tuesday, Feb. 12

Time: 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Religions and beliefs play an essential role in understanding the status of women and girls education according to different faith communities across the globe. The panel aims to raise awareness on empowering women and discuss multiple perspectives, implications and misconceptions on girls' education based on religions, traditions, and customs. Speakers include Dr. Sarah Sayeed, ICNY Program and Communications Associate; Nobel Peace Prize recipient Tawwakul Karman; Dr. William F. Vendley, Secretary General of Religions for Peace; Joyce S. Dubensky, CEO of Tanenbaum; Dr. Alp Aslandogan, President of the Alliance for Shared Values; Rwandan genocide survivor Marie Claudine Mukamabano; and Beth Adamson, of the Working Group on Girls. Sponsored by Center for Global Affairs, Peace Islands Institute and partner organizations. The Interfaith Center of NY is a partner organization. RSVP at rsvp@peaceislands.org.

Faith Leaders for Environmental Justice Quarterly Breakfast

Date: Thursday, Feb. 28

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 am

Location: Room 10T, Riverside Church, 121st St. and Riverside Drive, New York

This breakfast will focus on food justice. Faith Leaders for Environmental Justice is a collaboration of organizations and leaders concerned with food and environmental justice. The Interfaith Center of New York is a founding member of the coalition. Questions and RSVP's can be directed to Sarah Sayeed at (212) 870-3519 or ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org.

***** *Additional Events in the New York Area* *****

Making the Connections and Organizing for Change: Anti-Muslim Hate Speech, Government Policies, Police Surveillance, and Stop and Frisk

Date: Tuesday, Jan. 29

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew, 236 West 86th St. at West End Ave., NY

Last month, the Jews Against Islamophobia Coalition held the first panel in a three-part series of presentations and discussions that is hoped will enable further thought, discussion, and meaningful action. We are now excited to learn together with our second panel of speakers as they address this topic. Speakers include Muneer Awad of the New York Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-NY), civil rights attorney Alan Levine, community organizer and filmmaker Frank Antonio Lopez, and Arab American Association of New York director Linda Sarsour. Moderated by Jews for Racial and Economic Justice director Marjorie Dove Kent. For more information, see www.jewsagainstislamophobia.org.

Tackling Poverty: A Local & National Agenda

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 30

Time: See below

Location: El Museo del Barrio (1230 Fifth Avenue at 104th Street)

Following the Presidential Inauguration, New Yorkers will prepare to elect a new mayor in 2013. For the second event of the Tackling Poverty Series, you are invited to special conversation with experts and civic leaders to discuss a national and local policy agenda to address growing urban poverty and homelessness. The event will also highlight Hurricane Sandy's effects on the economic recovery and feature networking opportunities with other community stakeholders and professionals. Theater doors open and seating begins at 6 pm; Program starts promptly at 6:30 pm; Networking 8 to 9 pm. Guests who arrive by 5 pm will be able to view the collections of the museum for free from 5 to 6 pm. Presented by [City Limits and the Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness](#).

People's Recovery Summit

Date: 9:00 am Friday, Feb. 1 through midnight Sunday, Feb. 3

Location: The Church of St. Luke & St. Matthew, 520 Clinton Ave, Brooklyn, New York 11238-2211

On Feb. 1st, you're invited to take part in a conversation about the future of our city post-Sandy: the People's Recovery Summit, a 3-day gathering of volunteers, organizers, performers, residents and community leaders ready to strategize on the recovery effort. The two over-arching themes of the summit will be a more equitable and sustainable rebuilding of NYC post-Sandy. The Summit is lining up a host of progressive community groups, labor unions, sympathetic elected officials, faith community and grassroots relief agencies to participate. You can learn more about the summit, and register today, at www.summit.peoplesrecovery.org and RSVP on Facebook [here](#).

Republic Day of India Celebrations at Hindu Temple Society of North America

Date: Saturday, Feb. 2

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: The Hindu Temple Society of North America Auditorium, 143-09 Holly Ave., Flushing, NY 11355

Indian National flag hoisting ceremony on the solemn occasion of the 64th Republic Day of India, followed by patriotic songs and dance. Hindu Temple Society of North America: (718) 460-8484.

Jewish Art Now & Brooklyn J-Grads present FUTURE HISTORY

Date: Saturday, Feb. 2

Time: 8:00 pm – 11:00 pm

Location: Hadas Gallery, 541 Myrtle Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205

How do you want to be remembered? What influence do you want to make in the art world? How will your life dictate the future of what Judaism looks like? Jewish Art Now in conjunction with Brooklyn J-Grads presents an evening of socializing, drinks, and interactive art at the Hadas

Gallery in Brooklyn themed with the exhibition “We Are Patriarchs” a new painting series by artist Elke Reva Sudin. [RSVP on Facebook](#).

Solo Show & Artist Lecture: “We are Patriarchs” at Hadas Gallery

Date: January 13 – February 24, 2013

Artist Lecture: Wednesday, Feb. 6, 7:00 pm

Location: Hadas Gallery, 541 Myrtle Ave., Brooklyn NY 11205

Hadas Gallery proudly presents the world premiere of We Are Patriarchs, the new painting series from Elke Reva Sudin, acclaimed creator of Hipsters and Hassids. “We are Patriarchs” evokes the legacy of Biblical characters and archetypes drawing them into the 21st Century with contemporary oil portraits that suggest classical European master painters by way of Anglo-Japanese Japonisme, and graffiti street art. RSVP at <https://www.facebook.com/events/392761384134882>.

Pray-In Against Fracking

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 6

Time: 12:00 pm

Location: Outside of Governor Cuomo's Manhattan office, 633 Third Avenue

New Yorkers Against Fracking is holding a pray-in against fracking and are seeking faith leaders available to participate. Fracking is a highly dangerous method of drilling for natural gas that threatens our water, air, and food, and would contribute to climate change. The imperative is that Governor Cuomo may decide in mid to late February to open New York to fracking. We are looking for faith leaders -- of any and all faiths! -- to lead us in prayer and send a spiritual message in opposition to fracking in New York. If you are interested and available, please get in touch with Eric Weltman at Food & Water Watch: eweltman@fwwatch.org; 718-943-9085. And, of course, contact Eric if you have any questions, or would like more information. www.NYAgainstFracking.org.

New York City Clergy Roundtable Forum: Developing the Covenant: Government Responsibility to the Faith-Based Community

Date: Thursday, Feb. 7

Time: 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Location: Convent Avenue Baptist Church, 348 Convent Ave, New York, NY 10031

Join faith leaders in holding government accountable through “The Covenant” on quality of life issues for all New Yorkers. Contribute to this important conversation. Advisors on Education Reform, Healthcare, Housing, Immigration, Safer Communities, and Poverty & the Road to Economic Justice. RSVP to (718) 231-1033 or to nycclergyroundtable@aol.com.

2nd Annual Teen Dating Violence Awareness Walk-a-Thon

Date: Saturday, February 9

Time: Registration begins at 9:30 am

Location: Sunset Park Recreation Center, 44th Street & 4th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

One in four teens will experience teen dating violence (U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics 2001). “More than 40% of teen victims report abuse took place on school grounds” (breakthecycle.org). To help break the cycle, The Healing Center is holding the 2nd annual Teen Dating Violence Awareness Walk-a-Thon. For more information please call (718) 238-5158. www.thehealingcenterny.org.

NYC Parent Academy Parent Partnership Bronx Borough-Wide Conference

Date: Saturday, Feb. 9

Time: 9:00 am — 1:00 pm (Breakfast will be served at 8:30 am)

Location: P.S. 160 Walt Disney, 4140 Hutchinson River Pkwy East, Bronx, NY 10475

Please join this event to learn all about how to become more engaged in your child’s education. Conference Topics include “Encouraging Parent Involvement” and “Understanding Common Core Learning Standards, Standardized Tests, and Response to Intervention.” The Parent Academy’s primary goal is to provide parents with useful tools and information to help guide their children towards graduation, college, and careers. Who Should Attend? All Parents, Parent Leaders, Principals, Parent Coordinators, Guidance Counselors, Community Partners, SLT Members, Parent and School Teams and School Staff. For more information: (718) 780-6534 or info@nycparentacademy.org.

United for a Culture of Peace through Interfaith Harmony

Date: Thursday, Feb. 14

Time: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Location: The United Nations General Assembly Hall

You are invited to take part in this unique and uplifting call for peace, featuring distinguished speakers, music, representatives of diverse religious traditions, and a World Peace Flag Ceremony. Organized in Cooperation with Committee on Spirituality, Values & Global Concerns-NY; Global Movement for the Culture of Peace; Spiritual Caucus at the United Nations; The World Peace Prayer Society. Register by Feb. 7 at www.unitedforacultureofpeace.info. Security check-in opens at 9:00 am. Photo ID is required. Webcast live from the United Nations.

ForwardOnClimate demonstration in Washington, D.C.

Date: Sunday, Feb. 17

Time: 7:00 am – 9:00 pm (approximately)

Location: Buses leave from various NYC locations

If you believe that 2013 must be the year of strong U.S. climate action, join the ForwardOnClimate demonstration in Washington D.C. 350NYC is providing buses, at very low costs, for every climate activist who wants a seat. You can register and pay the nominal \$30 round trip fee (or \$15 if you are a student with an ID or a senior with a Medicare card) here: <http://350orgnyc.eventbrite.com/>. On that page you can also apply for one of a limited number of 350NYC scholarships, or make a donation that will help pay for others to come along. Please make your choices soon, so we can have enough buses, and enough funds for all who want to join in. To learn further details see: http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageNavigator/NAT_Oil_ForwardOnClimate_FAQ_SC.html. To contact 350NYC, email 350.orgnyc@gmail.com.

Panel discussion: Justice, Tzedek, Sadaqah: Pursuing Social Justice in Multi-faith Communities

Date: Tuesday, Feb. 19

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Jewish Theological Seminary, 3080 Broadway (at 122nd St), New York City

This multi-faith panel of "elders" will discuss how multi-faith communities have influenced social justice over the past two decades, what are the current issues being addressed, and what is still to be accomplished. They offer insight into how young activists can play a pivotal role in accomplishing some of these key objectives and what it will mean for the future of this country and our place in a global society. Event moderator Joshua Stanton solicited questions via the Journal of Interreligious Dialogue and State of Formation. Come add your voice to the conversation with these renowned leaders in multi-faith social justice. This event is co-sponsored by the Milstein Center for Interreligious Dialogue at the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Nelson Mandela Center at the Museum for African Art. Admission is free with reservations. To reserve a seat, please click [here](#). A photo ID is required. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early to clear security.

2013 Interfaith Movie Night – “Stolen Summer”

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 20

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Plymouth Church Reception Room, 75 Hicks Street (between Orange and Cranberry Sts.), Brooklyn Heights

An 8-year-old Catholic boy in suburban Chicago makes friends with the son of a local rabbi and feels it would be a good deed to convert him to Christianity. Interactions between the two families reveal suspicion and stereotypes as well as generosity and insight. A light supper will be served at 6:30 with movie starting promptly at 7:00. Contributions of side dishes, desserts and drinks are welcome. Films are free of charge and open to the public. Each screening will be followed by an opportunity for brief discussion. Sponsored by the Plymouth Interfaith Connection Group. For more information, call (718) 624-4743. See www.plymouthchurch.org.

Free “Supportive Housing” training for providers that help homeless Seniors, Adults, and Young Adults apply for housing

Date: Thursday, Feb. 28

Time: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Location: Gethsemane Baptist Church, 771 Fairmount Place, Bronx, NY 10460

Trainer: Ms. Natalie Moulton, Housing Consultant, Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS), Housing Resource Center. You are not registered for training until you receive a confirmation email. To pre-register for training, please reply at ctaft1500@aol.com with the following information: Your name/title, your agency/institution, address (including city, state and zip code), your office telephone number and office email address.

******* ADL Calendar of Observances for February 2013 *******

Full Month

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.

February 1

Friday

NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY

Commemorates the signing of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865.

February 10

Sunday

LUNAR NEW YEAR

On this day Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese New Year are celebrated.

February 12

Tuesday

SHROVE TUESDAY • Western Christian

A day of penitence as well as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. Also known as Mardi Gras.

February 13

Wednesday

ASH WEDNESDAY • Western Christian

The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.

February 14

Thursday

VALENTINE’S DAY

Celebrates the idea of romantic love.

February 15

Friday

SUSAN B. ANTHONY DAY

Birthday of Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906), a pioneer in the Women's Rights Movement.

February 15

Friday

NIRVANA DAY • Buddhist

Celebrates the day when the historical Buddha achieved Parinirvana, or complete Nirvana, upon the death of his physical body. Sometimes celebrated on February 8.

February 18

Monday

PRESIDENTS' DAY

Honors all past presidents of the United States of America.

February 24

Sunday

PURIM • Jewish

The "Feast of Lots" marks the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia from extermination.

February 25

Monday

MAGHA PUJA • Buddhist

Also known as Sangha Day, it commemorates the spontaneous assembly of 1,250 arahants, completely enlightened monks, in the historical Buddha's presence.

February 26-March 1

Tuesday-Friday

AYYÁM-I-HA OR INTERCALARY DAYS • Bahá'í

The Ayyám-i-ha, or "Days of Ha" are devoted to spiritual preparation for the fast, celebrating, hospitality, charity and gift giving. They are celebrated the four days, five in leap year, before the last month of the Bahá'í year.

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